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Items 28 and 114 (c) of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 13 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

According to reports from the Srebrenica area communicated to our Government, Serb forces have begun to separate boys and men aged 13 and older. It is reported that these boys and men have been forced to dig trenches and otherwise abused in the pursuit of Serb military goals in the occupied territories. It has also been communicated to our Government that women between the age of 15 and 35 have been separated from the rest of the refugee population. According to reports from this area, a number of trucks with detained men have been taken to unknown destinations. The fate of these detainees is uncertain and there are substantial grounds to fear their execution, though these reports could not yet be confirmed.

These acts constitute grave violations of the Geneva Conventions and the norms of international humanitarian law, and must be responded to in the strongest terms.

In view of the dire circumstances facing the population of Srebrenica, the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina requests that the following be secured and ensured:

(a) Safe passage for all refugees from Srebrenica to government-held territories;

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

(b) United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) surveillance of the road from Srebrenica on which the expelled population would be travelling as well as to escort the convoys with refugees. UNPROFOR must account for and document all inhabitants being transported by the Serbian terrorists by buses and trucks from Srebrenica, since it has already been observed that a number of the expelled citizens have disappeared during transport;

(c) Immediate dispatch of UNPROFOR troops and medical units to the area to protect and care for the civilian population;

(d) An account of all those taken by the Serbs and their release forthwith. These detainees should be regarded as any of the United Nations hostages, and demands must be made that they be immediately released unharmed;

(e) Upon the arrival of the refugee population in government-held territories, provisions for their temporary settlement, including at the very least the erection of make-shift housing;

(f) The opening of Tuzla Airport in order to ensure deliveries of tents, blankets, food and medical supplies to the refugees.

Since the United Nations has failed to defend the population of Srebrenica, on United Nations demilitarized territory, it is not absolved of its obligations to provide for them now, once in government-held territory, after having exposed them to life threatening danger resulting from the absence of timely United Nations action.

May I ask Excellency, for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under items 28 and 114 (c) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.